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Representative David Coley dies of cancer at 43

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – State Representative David Coley passed away today at approximately 6 p.m. at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital after battling cancer of the liver. He is survived by his wife, Marti, and their children Kristin, Vance and Hunter. Details regarding funeral arrangements will be made available once they are finalized.

Florida House Speaker Allan Bense issued the following statement:

“It is with the deepest sorrow that we say goodbye to David Coley,” said Speaker Bense. “Florida has lost a man who epitomized public service, and whose passion for helping others drove him to achieve his dream of being a State Representative.

“The Florida House of Representatives has lost a true statesman who consistently placed the greater good ahead of any partisan or political goals. I know everyone here, members and staff alike, join Tonie and me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to Marti, Kristin, Vance and Hunter as well as our sincere appreciation for the sacrifices they have made over the years to share their husband and father with all of us.

“Personally, I have lost not just my former aid and colleague, but a true friend who deserves much of the credit for what I have been able to achieve so far. One of my proudest moments was looking out on the House Chamber while being sworn in as Speaker and seeing Dave’s smiling face. Whenever I needed him, Dave was there. It will be a long time before I can get used to not just picking up the phone and calling him when things get rough.

“God blesses our lives in many ways, and He certainly blessed all of us who knew Dave by sharing him with us – even if it was for far too short of a time. Words simply cannot express the pain of losing such a dear friend and wonderful person, neither can words describe the depth of my gratitude for having known Dave and knowing he will forever be in my heart.”

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